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TALES OF MARYADA RAMA

THE FAIREST JUDGE OF ALL

Vol 633 | Rs 35

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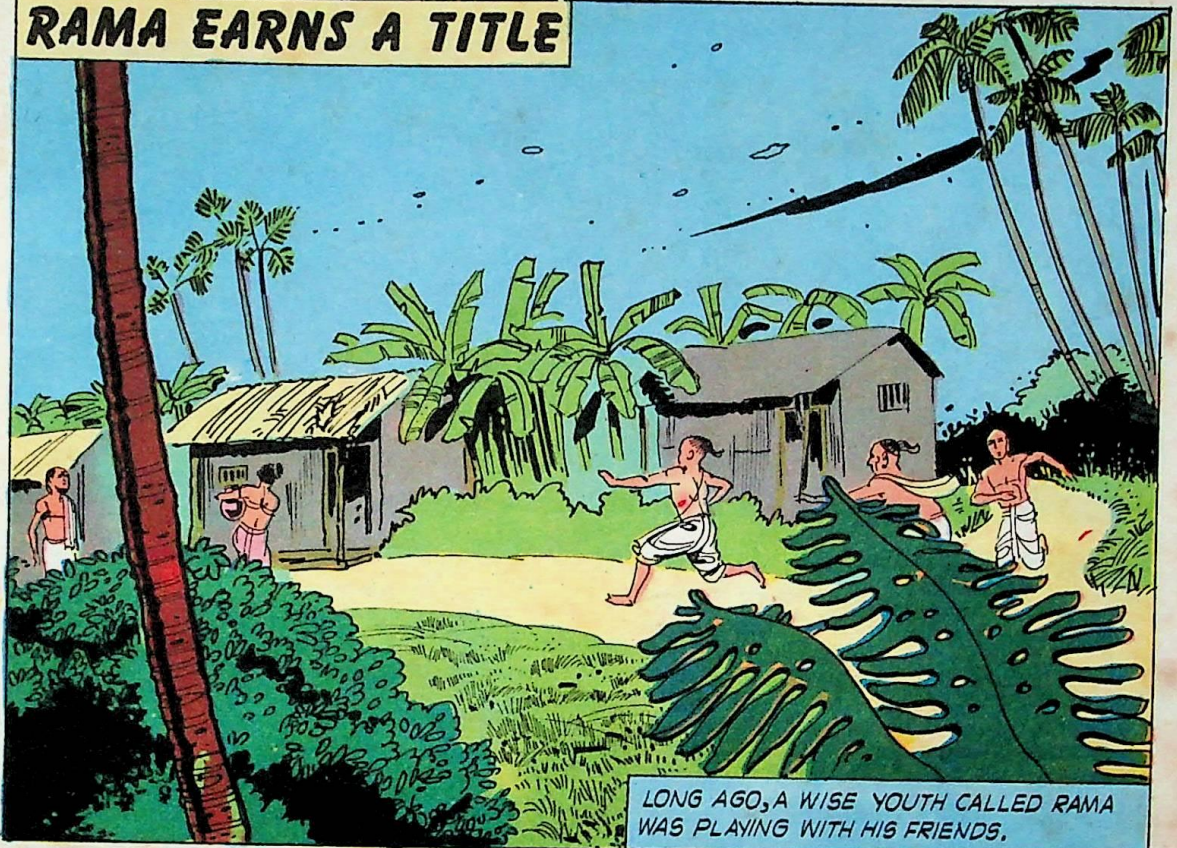
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RAMA EARNS A TITLE

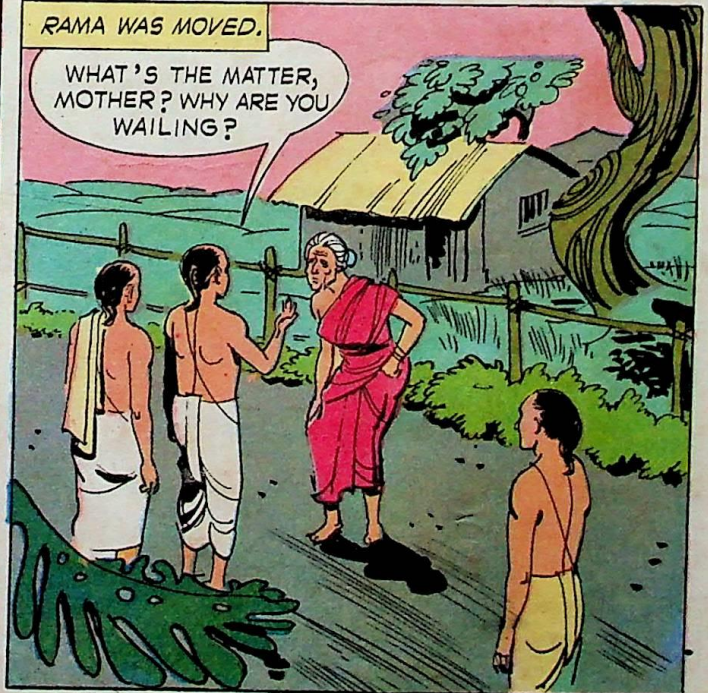
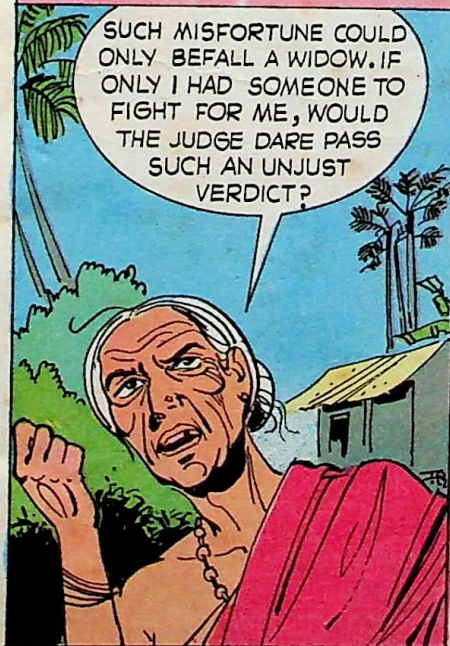


SUDDENLY AN OLD WOMAN CAME BY.

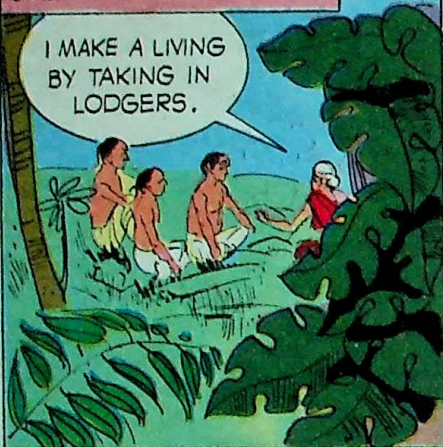
SUCH MISFORTUNE COULD ONLY BEFALL A WIDOW. IF ONLY I HAD SOMEONE TO FIGHT FOR ME, WOULD THE JUDGE DARE PASS SUCH AN UNJUST VERDICT?

RAMA WAS MOVED.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, MOTHER? WHY ARE YOU WAILING?



THE OLD WOMAN CONTROLLED HER GRIEF AND TOLD HER TALE.

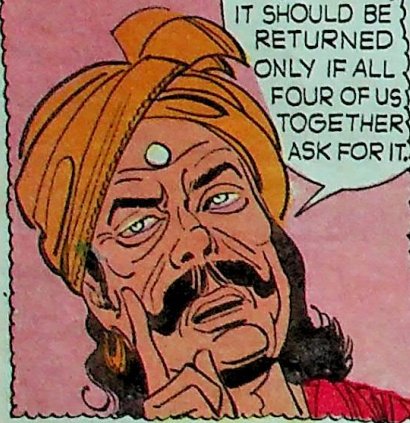


"ONE DAY, FOUR OF MY LODGERS CAME TO ME WITH A SEALED POT.



"I TOOK THE POT.

AND REMEMBER, MOTHER, IT SHOULD BE RETURNED ONLY IF ALL FOUR OF US TOGETHER ASK FOR IT.



"A FEW DAYS LATER, AS THE FOUR OF THEM WERE SITTING OUTSIDE THE HOUSE —

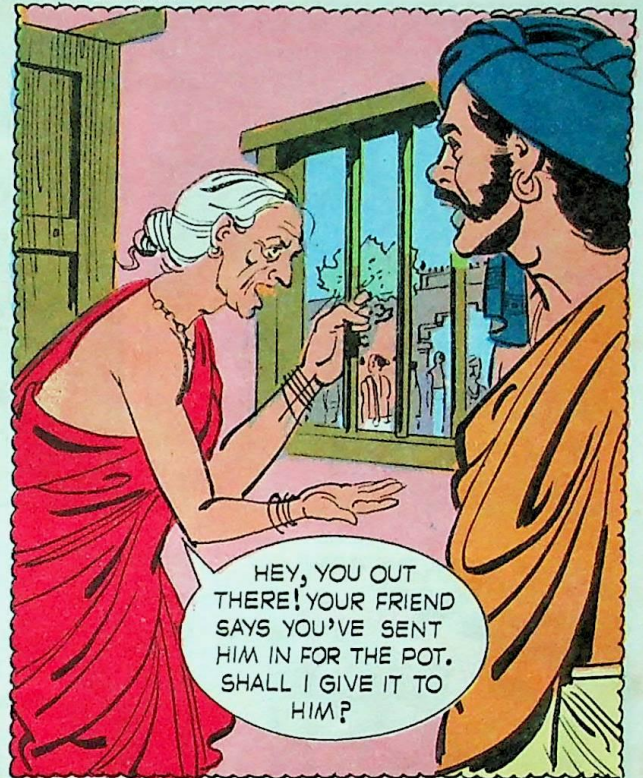
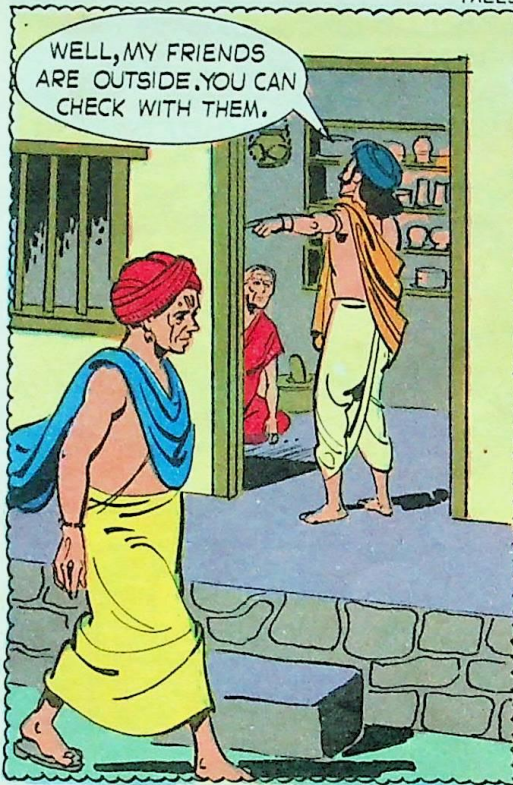


"THE YOUNGEST OF THEM CAME IN.

MY FRIENDS HAVE SENT ME IN TO ASK FOR THE BRASS POT WE LEFT WITH YOU.

I'M SORRY. I CAN'T GIVE IT UNLESS ALL FOUR OF YOU ASK FOR IT.





"I GAVE THE POT TO THE ROGUE."

HERE, TAKE IT. YOUR FRIENDS ARE IMPATIENT FOR IT.



"HE TOOK THE POT AND WENT OUT THROUGH THE BACK DOOR. I WAS PUZZLED."

WHY IS HE USING THE BACK DOOR? WELL, IT'S NO CONCERN OF MINE!



"A LITTLE LATER, THE THREE OUTSIDE CAME IN."



WHAT IS THAT FOOL DOING? WHERE IS THE POT?

OH, I'VE GIVEN IT TO YOUR FRIEND, SEAL INTACT. HE TOOK IT OUT THROUGH THE BACK DOOR.



SEAL INTACT! WHICH POT DID YOU GIVE HIM?

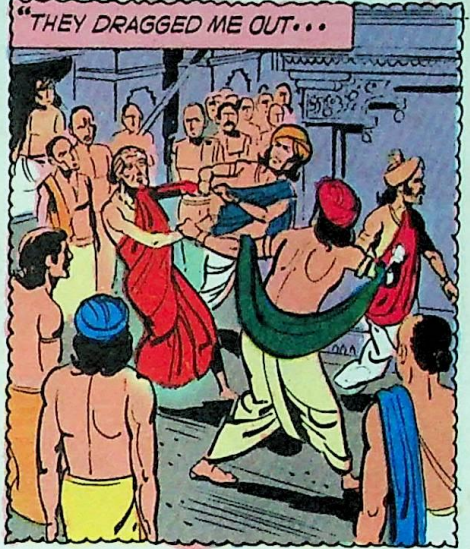
WHY! THE POT YOU HAD ASKED ME TO KEEP. HASN'T HE BROUGHT IT TO YOU?



"TO MY SURPRISE, THEY WERE FURIOUS."



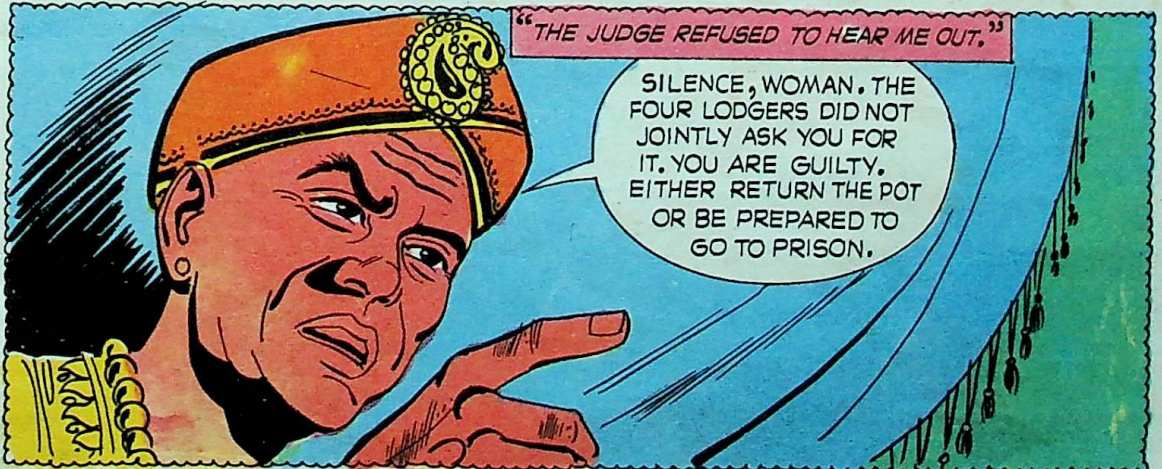
"THEY DRAGGED ME OUT..."

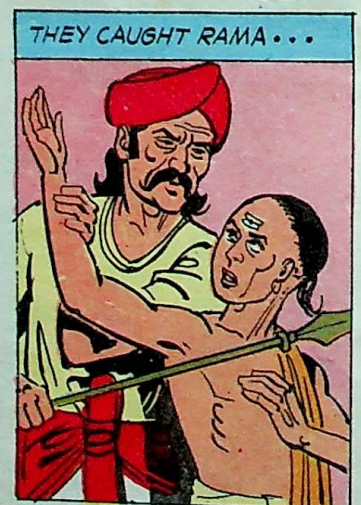
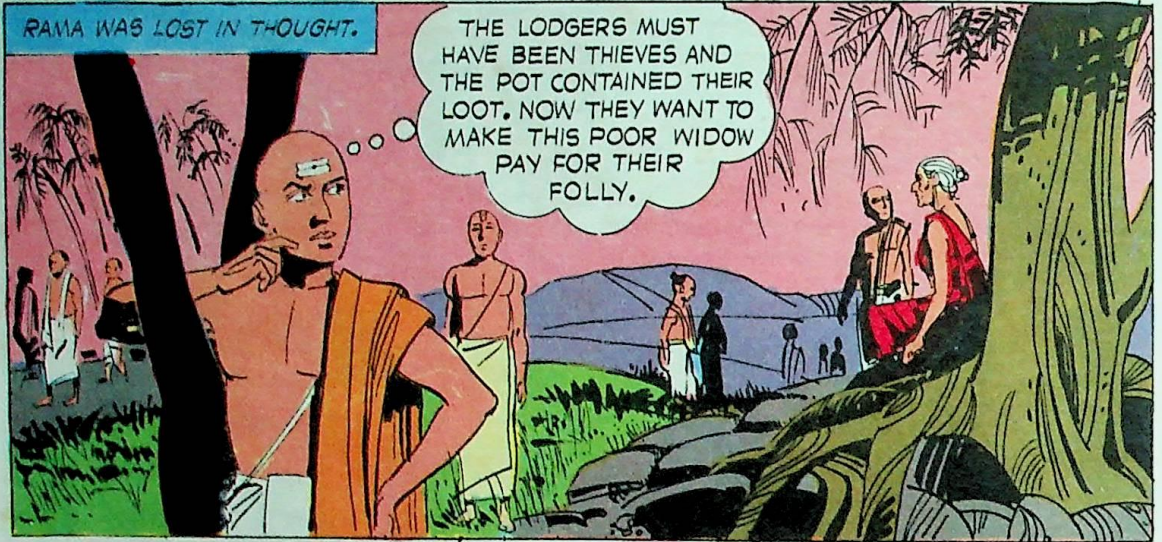


"... TO THE CITY JUDGE AND TOLD HIM THEIR STORY."

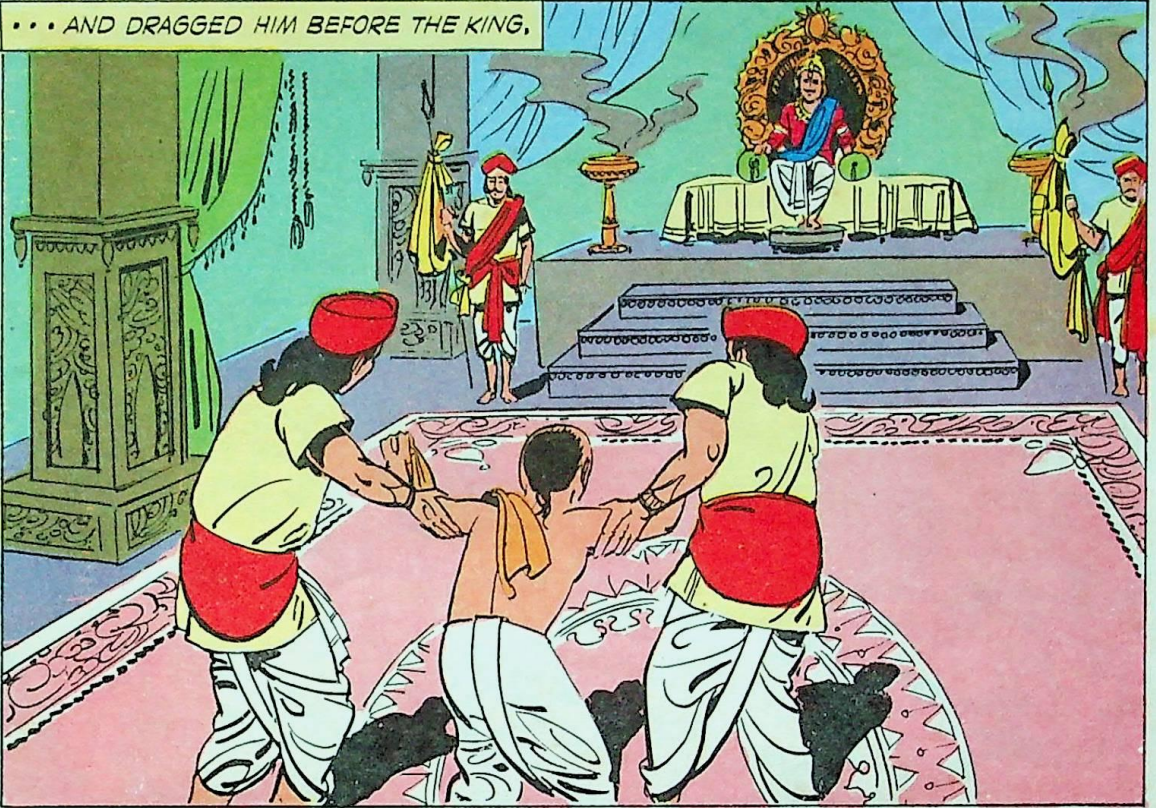


"THE JUDGE REFUSED TO HEAR ME OUT."





... AND DRAGGED HIM BEFORE THE KING.



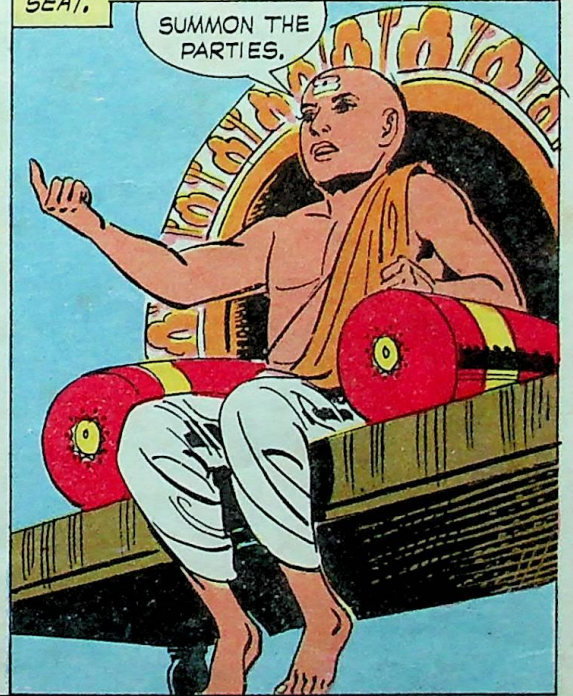
WHEN THE KING LEARNT WHY RAMA HAD BEEN BROUGHT BEFORE HIM, HE WAS AMUSED.

WELL, MY SON! TAKE THE JUDGE'S SEAT AND SEE IF YOU CAN DO BETTER.



RAMA STEPPED BOLDLY UP AND TOOK THE SEAT.

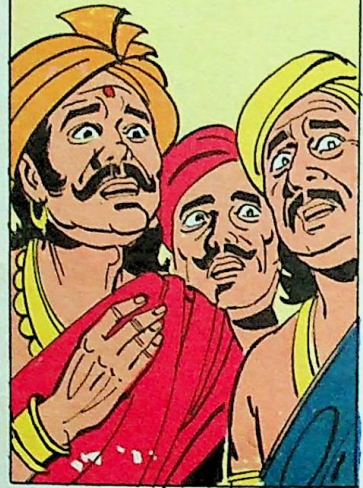
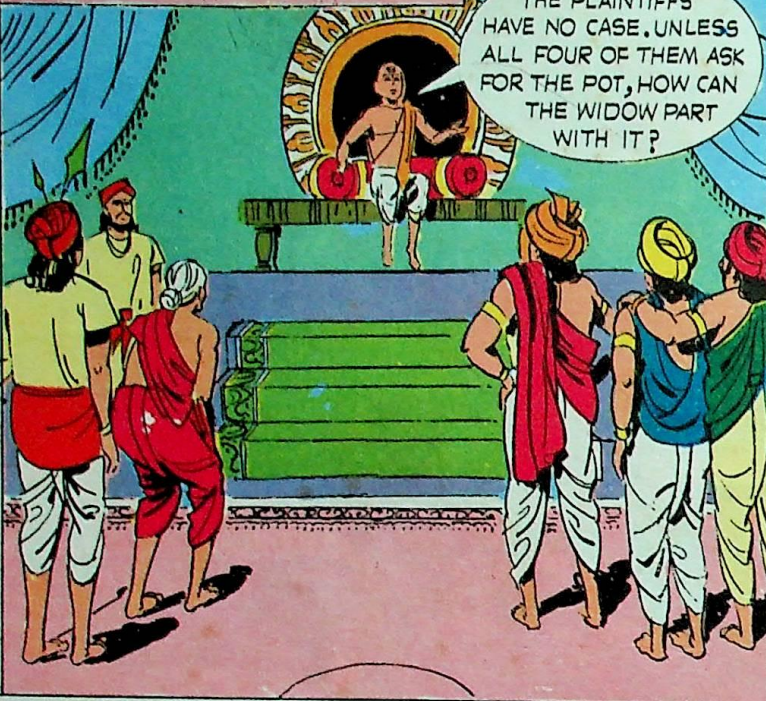
SUMMON THE PARTIES.



WHEN THE PARTIES WERE SUMMONED AND THEIR STATEMENTS RECORDED, RAMA PRONOUNCED HIS VERDICT.

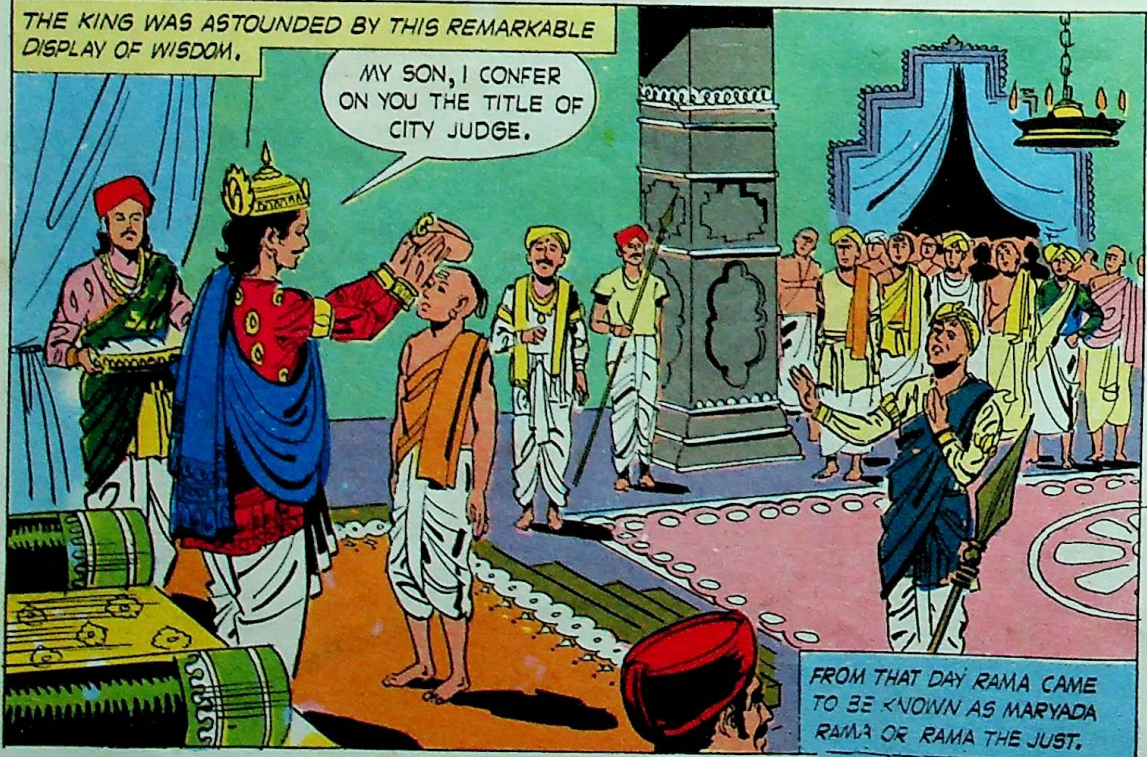
THE PLAINTIFFS HAVE NO CASE, UNLESS ALL FOUR OF THEM ASK FOR THE POT, HOW CAN THE WIDOW PART WITH IT?

LET THEM PRODUCE THE FOURTH FELLOW AND THE WIDOW WILL GIVE THEM THE POT.



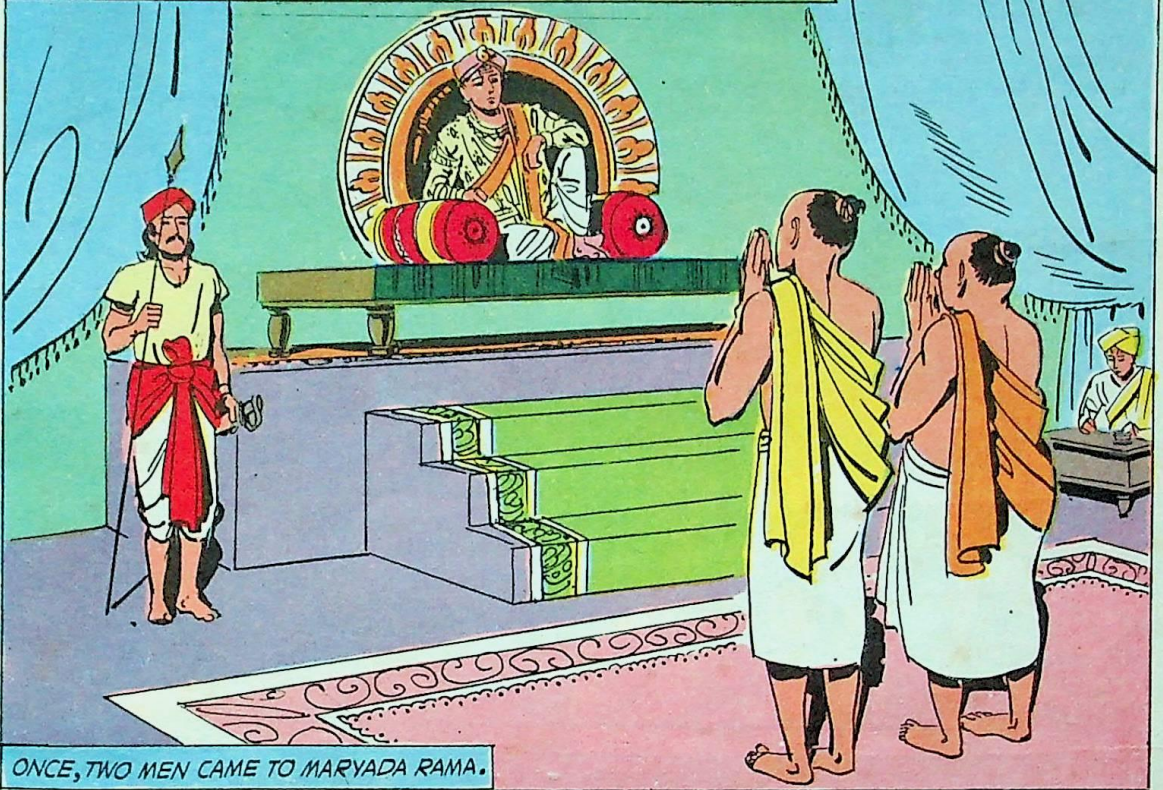
THE KING WAS ASTOUNDED BY THIS REMARKABLE DISPLAY OF WISDOM.

MY SON, I CONFER ON YOU THE TITLE OF CITY JUDGE.



FROM THAT DAY RAMA CAME TO BE KNOWN AS MARYADA RAMA OR RAMA THE JUST.

THE FALSE WITNESSES TRAPPED



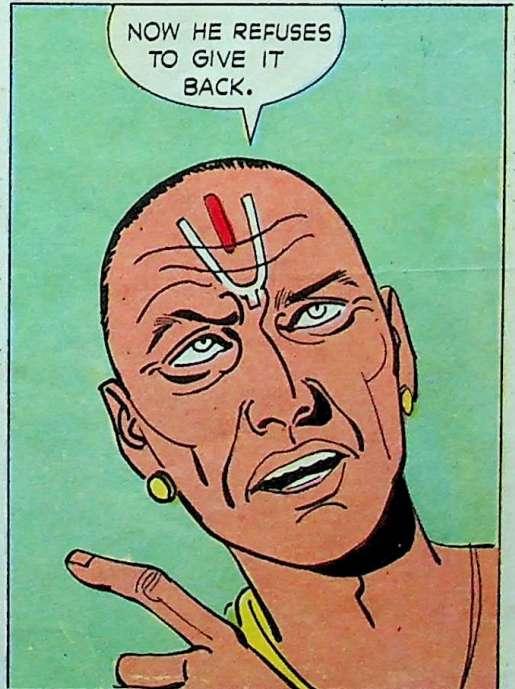
ONCE, TWO MEN CAME TO MARYADA RAMA.

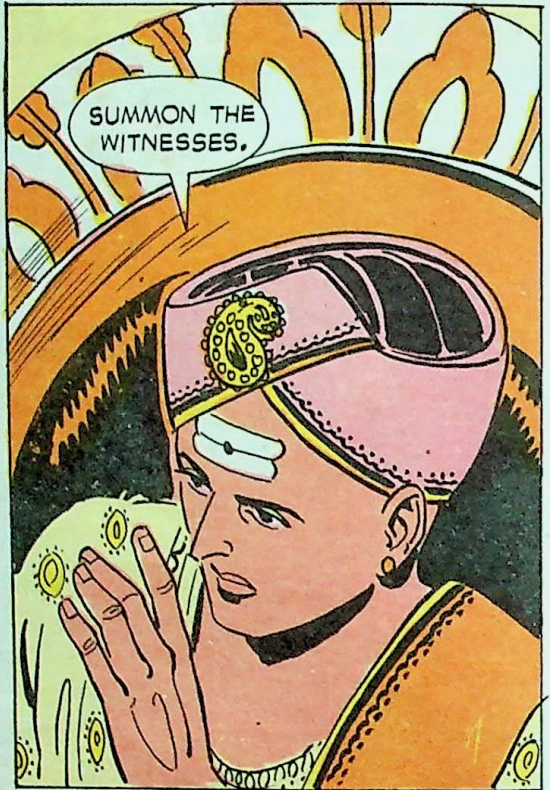
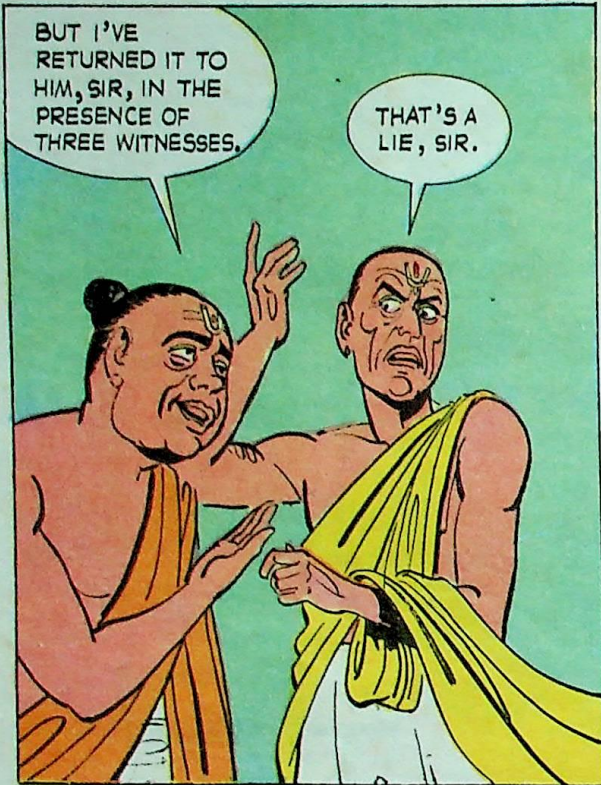
RAMA FIRST HEARD THE PLAINTIFF.



SIR, I HAD A VALUABLE RUBY WHICH I LEFT WITH THIS MAN FOR SAFE-KEEPING WHEN I WENT ON A PILGRIMAGE FOUR YEARS AGO.

NOW HE REFUSES TO GIVE IT BACK.





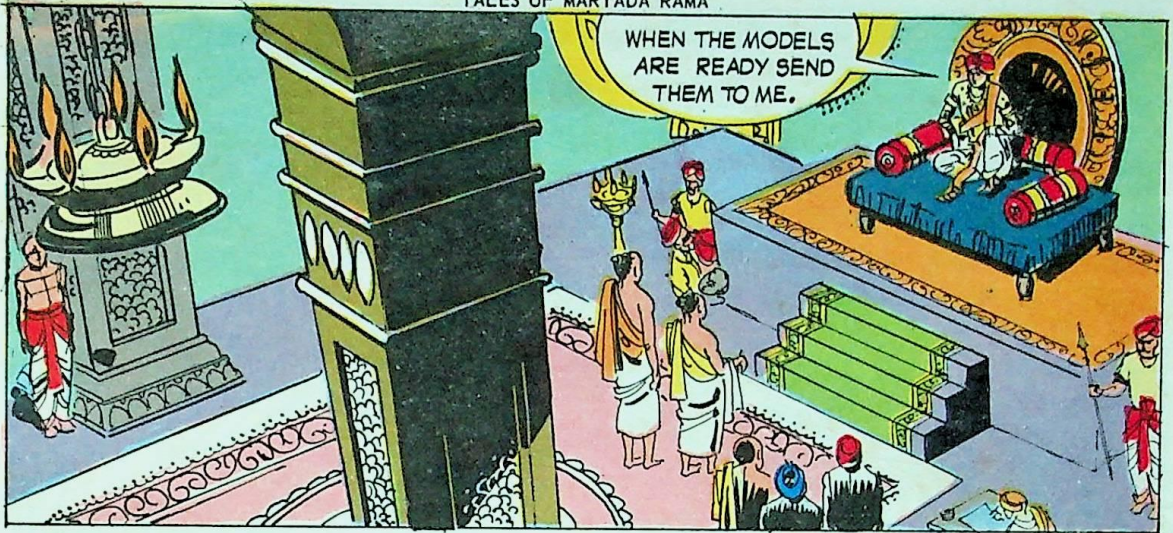
THE DEFENDANT HAD BRIBED HIS OWN WASHERMAN, BARBER AND COOK TO COME AND SUPPORT HIS STORY.



RAMA TURNED TO HIS ATTENDANT,



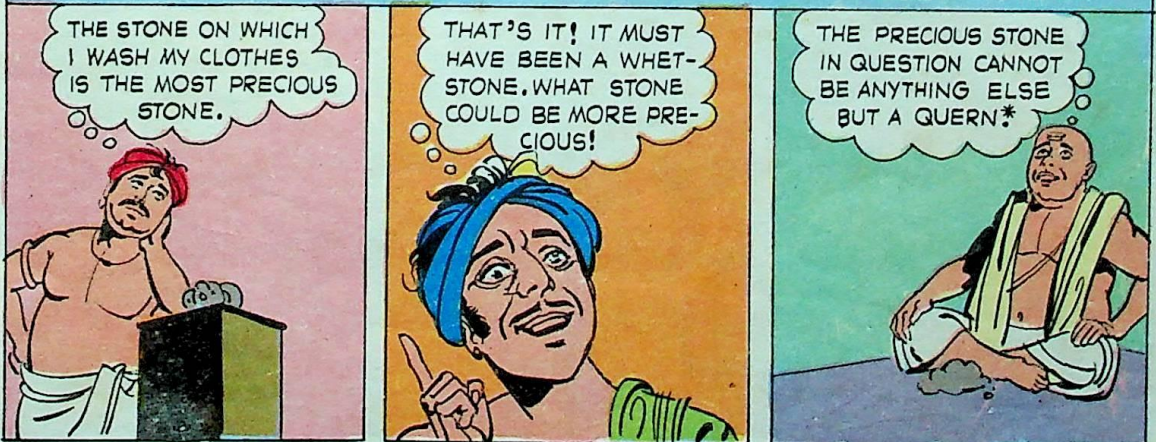
TALES OF MARYADA RAMA



THE PLAINTIFF AND THE DEFENDANT HAD NO PROBLEM. THEY KNEW THAT THE PRECIOUS STONE WAS A RUBY AND GOT DOWN TO WORK ON THEIR MODELS.

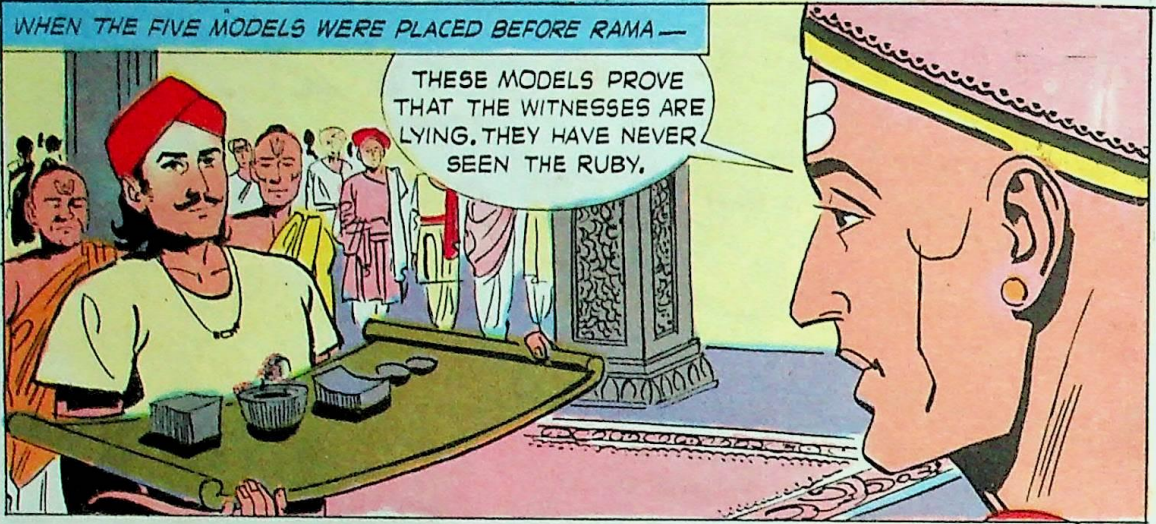


BUT THE FALSE WITNESSES WHO HAD NEVER SEEN THE RUBY, DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO, SO EACH OF THEM MADE A MODEL OF WHAT WAS TO HIM A PRECIOUS STONE—THE STONE USED IN HIS TRADE.



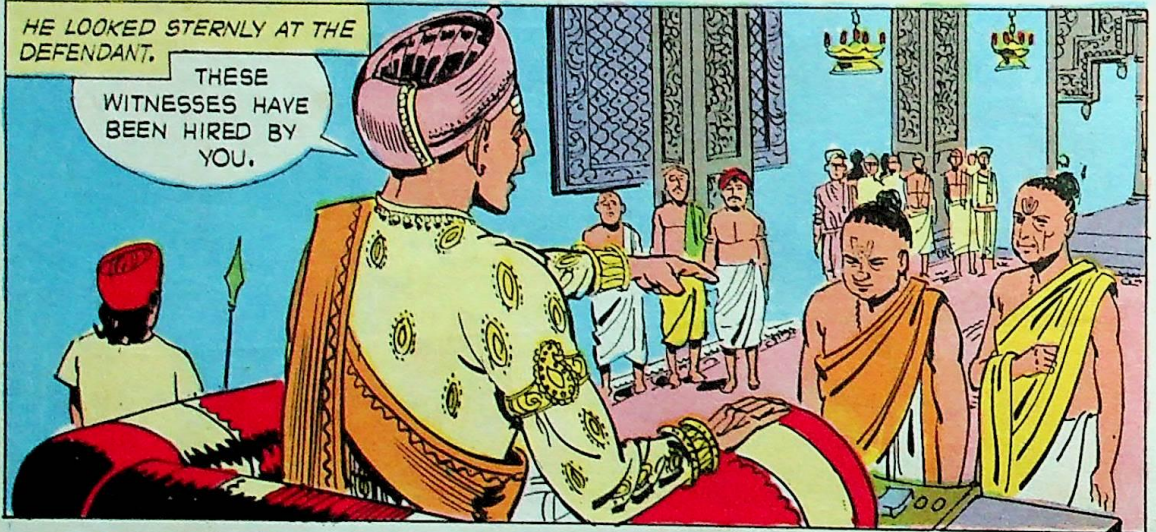
* STONE FOR GRINDING SPICES.

WHEN THE FIVE MODELS WERE PLACED BEFORE RAMA —

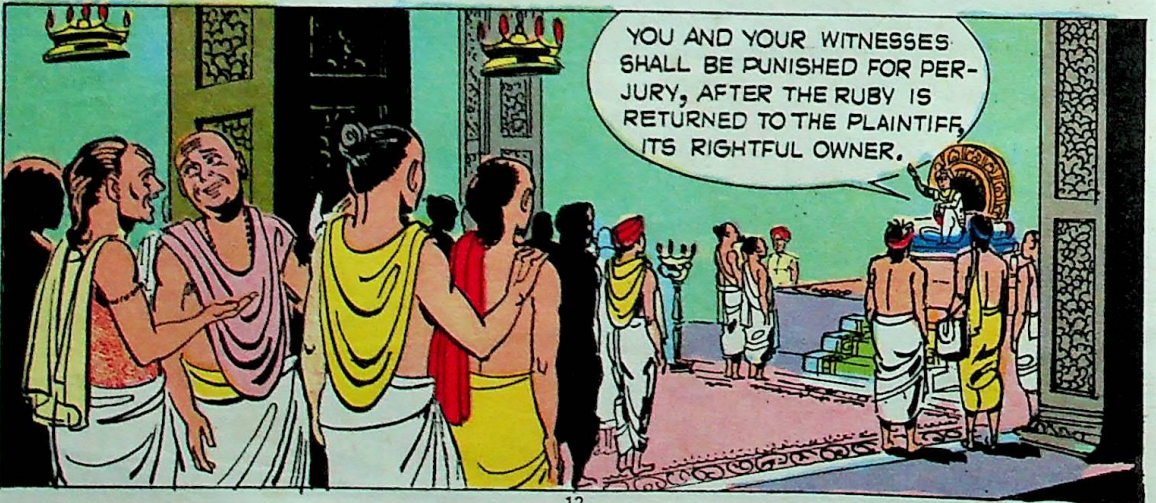


HE LOOKED STERNLY AT THE DEFENDANT.

THESE
WITNESSES HAVE
BEEN HIRED BY
YOU.



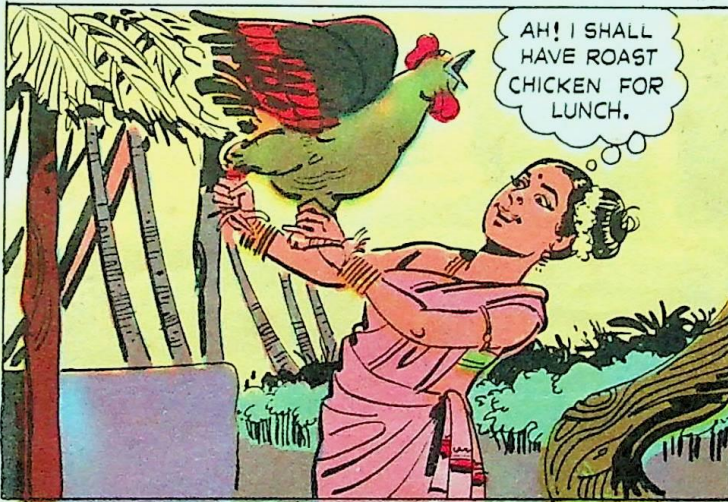
YOU AND YOUR WITNESSES
SHALL BE PUNISHED FOR PER-
JURY, AFTER THE RUBY IS
RETURNED TO THE PLAINTIFF,
ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER.



THE FOWL THIEF



A WOMAN'S HEN ONCE STRAYED INTO HER GREEDY NEIGHBOUR'S HOUSE.

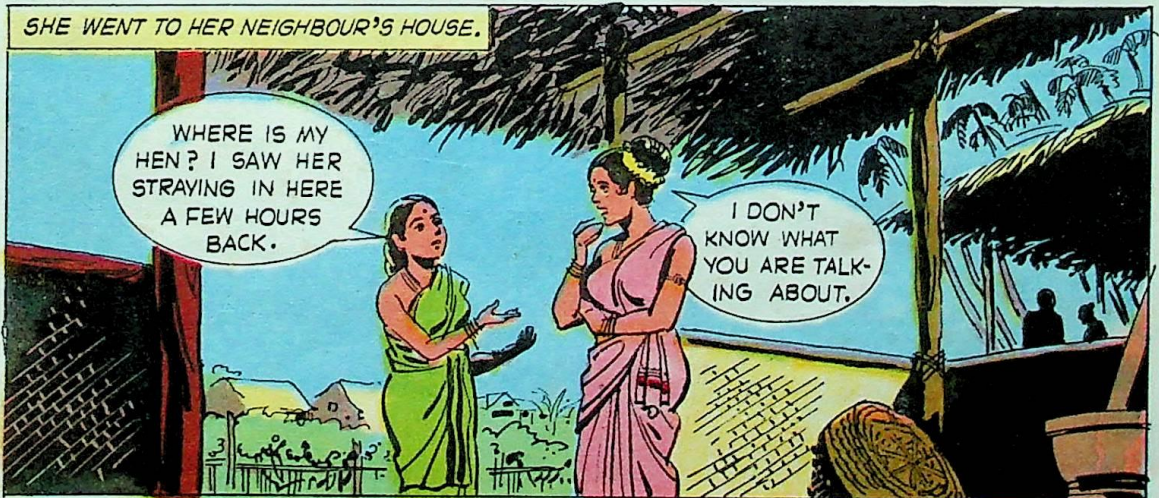


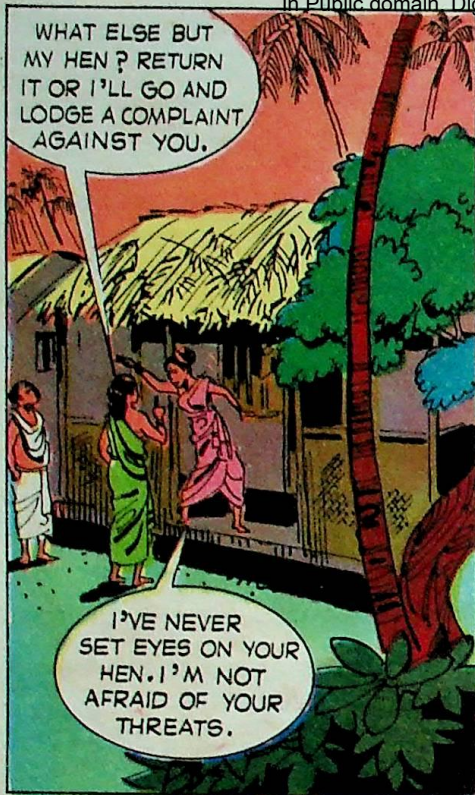
AT DUSK, THE OWNER OF THE FOWL BECAME ANXIOUS.

MY HEN HAS NOT RETURNED YET. I'D BETTER GO AND FETCH HER.



SHE WENT TO HER NEIGHBOUR'S HOUSE.





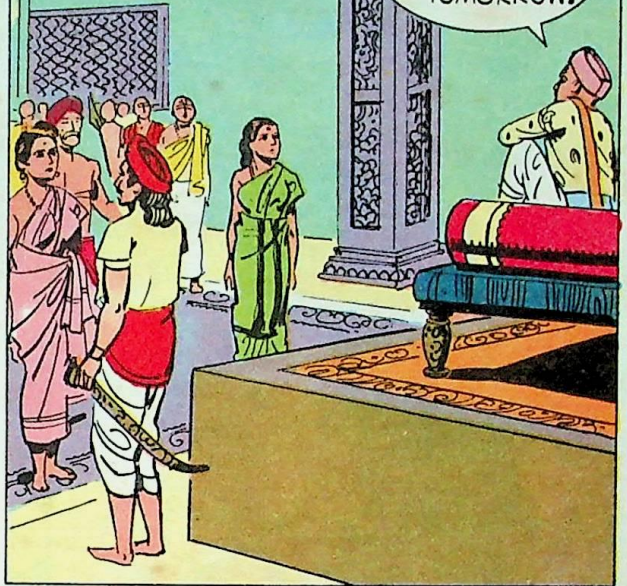
RAMA WAS INCLINED TO BELIEVE THE PLAINTIFF'S STORY BUT THERE WAS NO PROOF OF THE SUSPECT'S GUILT.

I'M SURE SHE'S COOKED THE FOWL AND EATEN IT. I'LL GET THE TRUTH OUT OF HER YET.



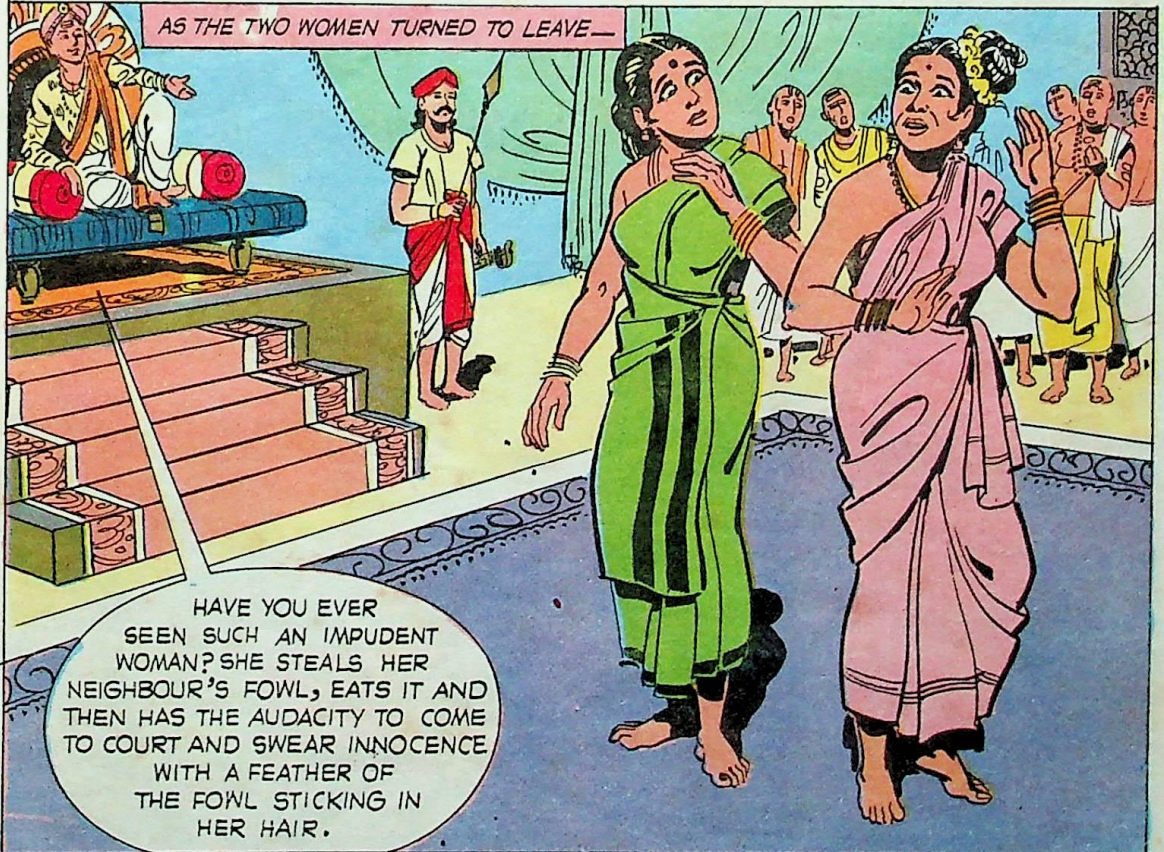
HE PRETENDED TO WEIGH THE MATTER CAREFULLY, THEN —

YOU MAY GO NOW. I'LL GIVE YOU THE VERDICT TOMORROW.



AS THE TWO WOMEN TURNED TO LEAVE —

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN SUCH AN IMPUDENT WOMAN? SHE STEALS HER NEIGHBOUR'S FOWL, EATS IT AND THEN HAS THE AUDACITY TO COME TO COURT AND SWEAR INNOCENCE WITH A FEATHER OF THE FOWL STICKING IN HER HAIR.



THE MOMENT THE GUILTY WOMAN HEARD RAMA'S WORDS, SHE PASSED HER HAND OVER HER HAIR.

HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO CARELESS!



THE NEXT MOMENT —

SEIZE HER!
SHE IS GUILTY.



THE SUSPECT STOOD SHAME-FACEDLY BEFORE RAMA.

YOU WILL REPLACE THE STOLEN BIRD AND PAY A HEAVY FINE TO THE COURT FOR UTTERING A FALSEHOOD UNDER OATH.



THE DISHONEST DEBTOR



AT THE END OF THE THREE MONTHS, THE MONEY-LENDER ASKED HIM TO REPAY THE SUM.



THE MONEY-LENDER WENT THE NEXT DAY WITH THE BOND.

THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME MISTAKE ABOUT THE DATE. LET ME SEE THE BOND.

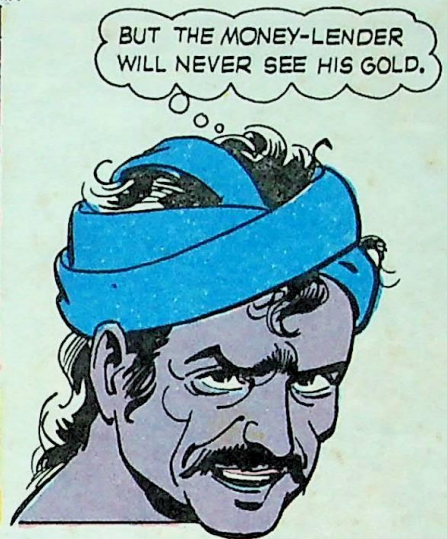
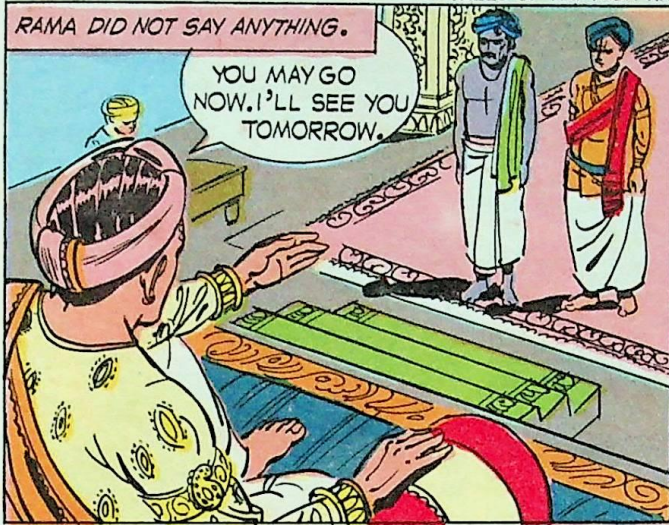


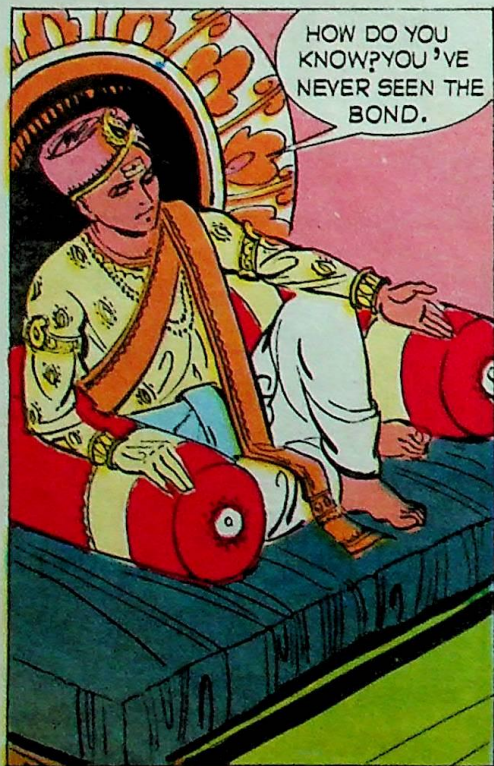
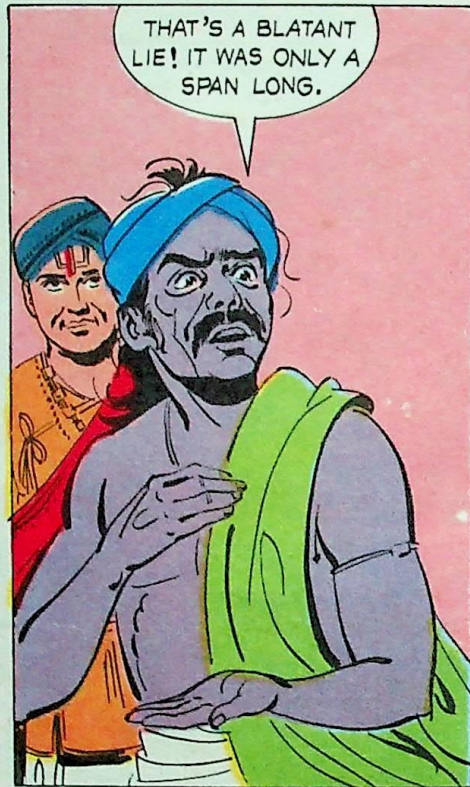
THE UNSUSPECTING MONEY-LENDER GAVE THE BOND TO HIM.



WHEN THE POOR MONEY-LENDER COMPLAINED TO MARYADA RAMA, HE SENT FOR THE FARMER.







THE DEAD ELEPHANT AND THE BROKEN POTS

ONCE TWO MEN CAME TO MARYADA RAMA'S COURT.

ONCE TWO MEN CAME TO MARYADA RAMA'S COURT.

SIR, THIS MAN BORROWED MY ELEPHANT FOR HIS SON'S WEDDING. THE ANIMAL DIED. I WANT MY ELEPHANT BACK ALIVE.

WHAT IS THE MATTER?

SIR, THIS MAN BORROWED
MY ELEPHANT FOR HIS SON'S
WEDDING. THE ANIMAL DIED.
I WANT MY ELEPHANT
BACK ALIVE.

WHAT CAN I DO, SIR?
THE ANIMAL SUDDENLY
DIED. I OFFERED TO COM-
PENSATE HIM WITH MONEY
BUT HE INSISTS THAT I RE-
STORE HIS ANIMAL TO LIFE
AND RETURN IT.

RAMA TRIED TO PERSUADE THE PLAINTIFF TO ACCEPT THE MONEY BUT IN VAIN.

THE MAN IS A STUBBORN, UNREASONABLE FOOL. I'LL HAVE TO TEACH HIM A LESSON.

LET US POSTPONE THE CASE FOR A DAY. WE'LL TAKE UP THE MATTER AGAIN, TOMORROW.

AN HOUR LATER, HE SENT FOR THE DEFENDANT.

PILE UP ALL THE POTTERY YOU HAVE IN THE HOUSE, AGAINST YOUR DOOR TOMORROW. AND DON'T COME TO COURT TILL THE PLAINTIFF ARRIVES PERSONALLY TO CALL YOU.

THE NEXT DAY, THE PLAINTIFF CAME TO COURT AT THE APPOINTED HOUR. BUT —

WE CANNOT TAKE UP YOUR CASE TILL THE DEFENDANT TOO IS HERE.

THAT SCOUNDREL! HE'S DELIBERATELY STAYED AWAY. I'LL GO AND BRING HIM.

THE DEFENDANT IMMEDIATELY CAUGHT ON.

TALES OF MARYADA RAMA

HE RUSHED TO THE DEFENDANT'S HOUSE AND PUSHED THE DOOR.



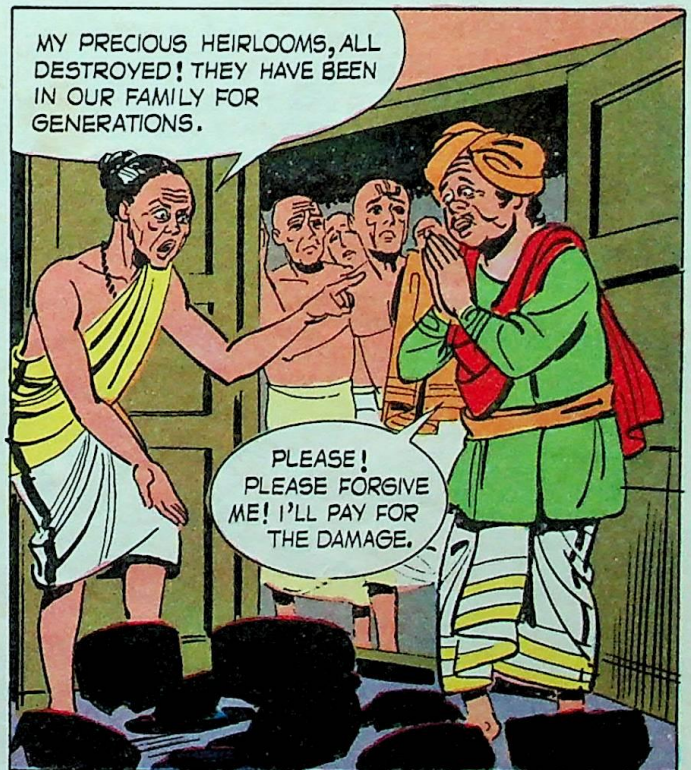
TO HIS SURPRISE THERE WAS A LOUD CRASH.



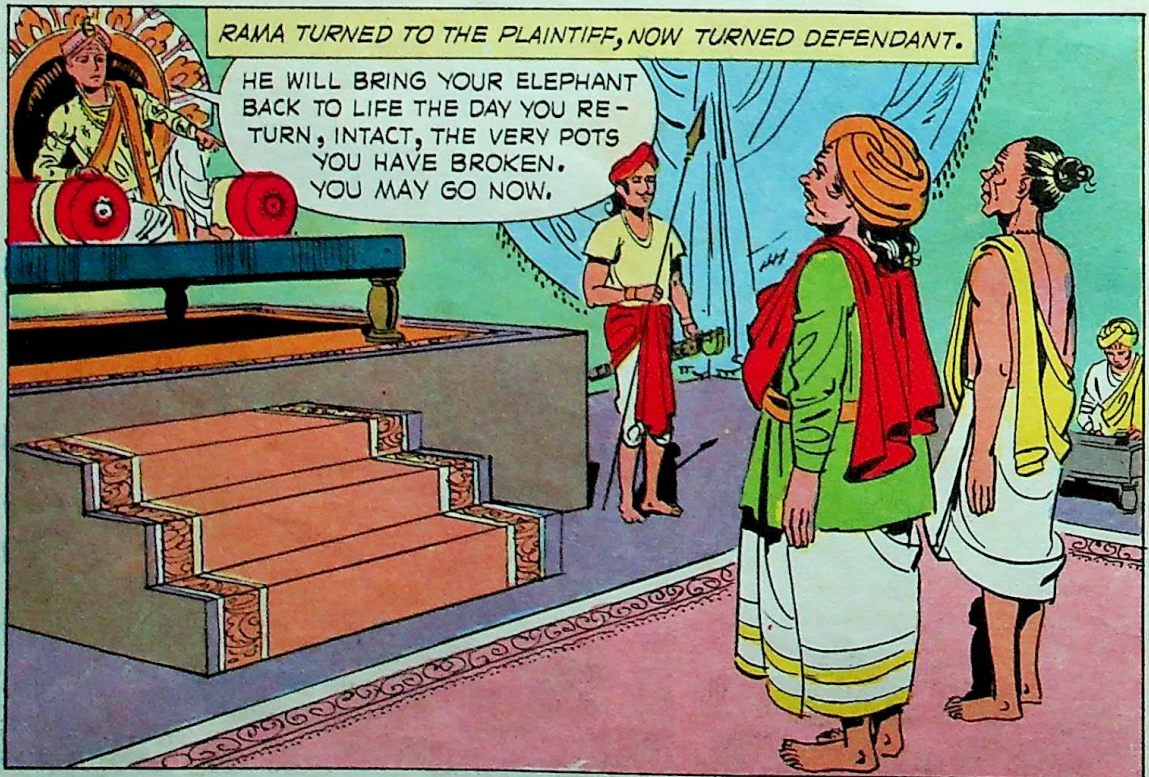
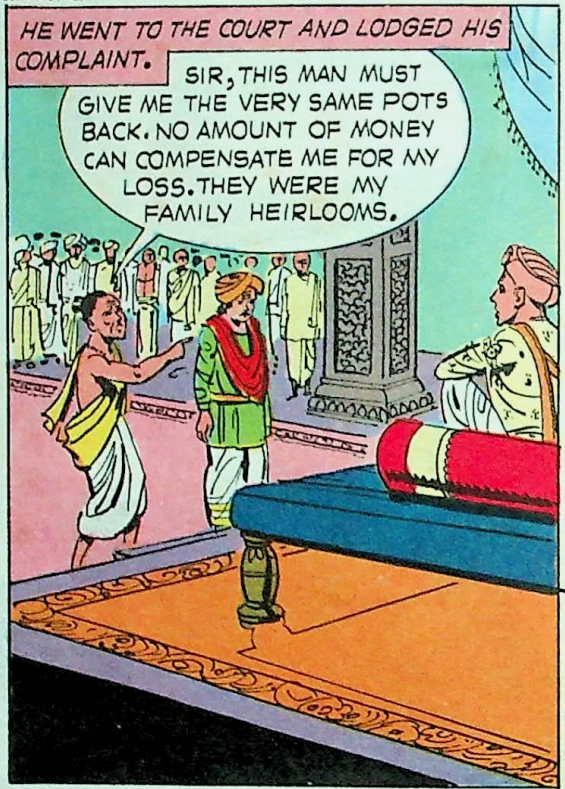
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?



MY PRECIOUS HEIRLOOMS, ALL DESTROYED! THEY HAVE BEEN IN OUR FAMILY FOR GENERATIONS.



PLEASE! PLEASE FORGIVE ME! I'LL PAY FOR THE DAMAGE.



THE BRAHMAN'S GOLD



AN OLD BRAHMAN AND HIS WIFE ONCE DECIDED TO GO ON A PILGRIMAGE.

THEY PLACED ALL THEIR SAVINGS IN A BRASS POT AND FILLED IT WITH DAL.*

I'LL LEAVE IT WITH THE NEIGHBOURS FOR SAFE-KEEPING.

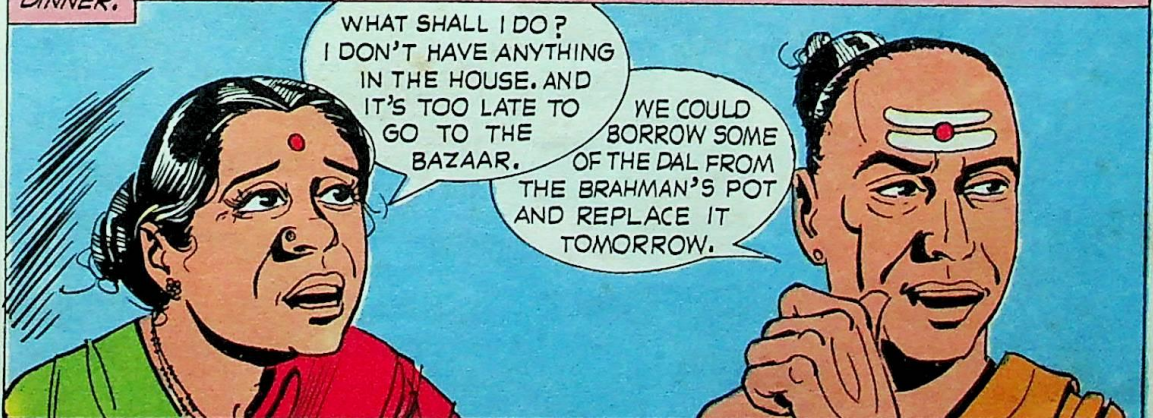


AT THE NEIGHBOUR'S HOUSE —



YOU MAY LEAVE IT IN THAT CORNER. NO ONE WILL TOUCH IT. TRUST ME.

ONE NIGHT, A FEW DAYS LATER, THE NEIGHBOURS HAD EIGHT UNEXPECTED GUESTS FOR DINNER.



WHAT SHALL I DO?
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING
IN THE HOUSE. AND
IT'S TOO LATE TO
GO TO THE
BAZAAR.

WE COULD
BORROW SOME
OF THE DAL FROM
THE BRAHMAN'S POT
AND REPLACE IT
TOMORROW.

AS HE POURED OUT THE DAL FROM THE POT —

WHAT'S THIS!
GOLD COINS!

LET'S KEEP
THE COINS AND FILL
THE VESSEL
WITH DAL.

GREED GOT THE BETTER OF THE MAN AND
HE DID AS HIS WIFE SUGGESTED.

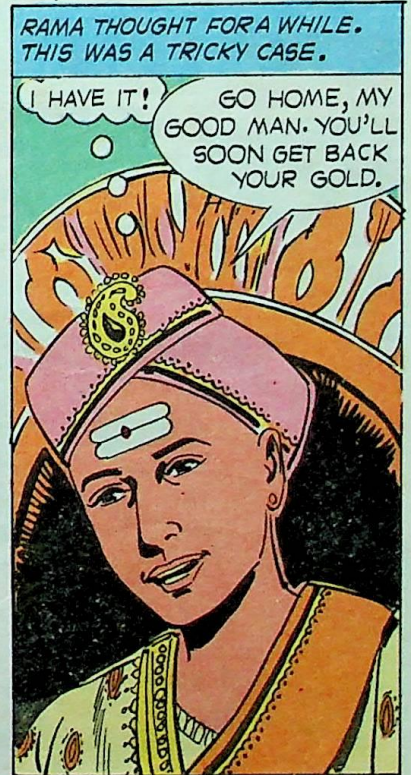
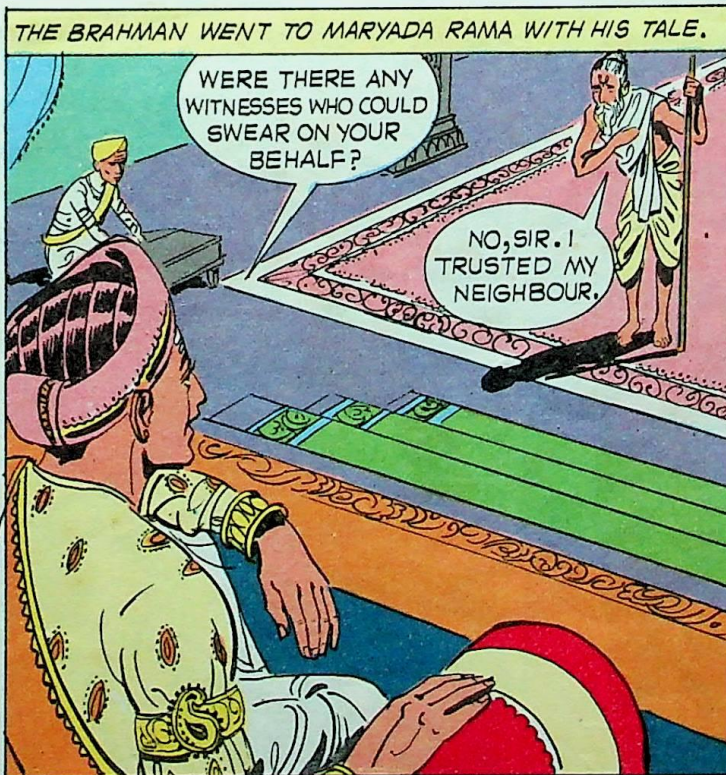
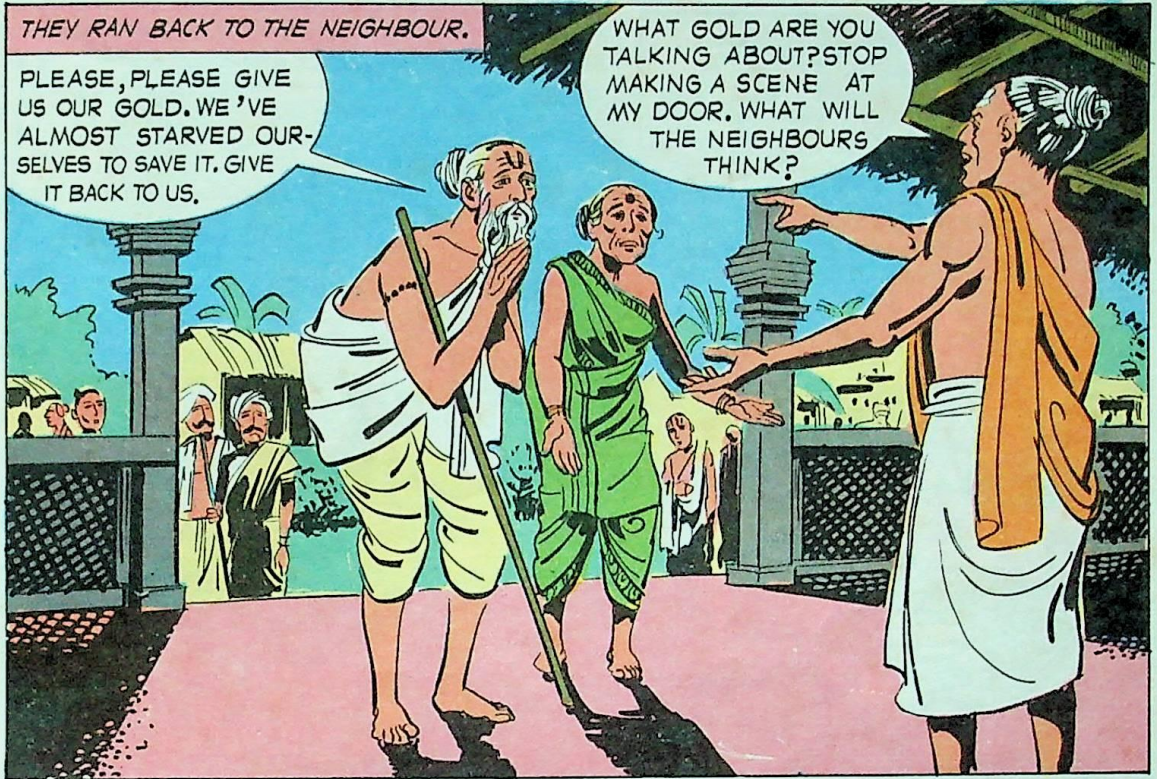
AS SOON AS THE BRAHMAN AND HIS
WIFE RETURNED FROM THEIR PILGRIM-
AGE, THEY WENT NEXT DOOR FOR THE
POT.

THERE YOU ARE!
WE HAVEN'T EVEN
MOVED IT FROM
THAT CORNER.

THE BRAHMAN TOOK THE POT, WENT HOME, AND TIP-
PED OUT THE CONTENTS.

WHERE IS THE
GOLD? THEY'VE
STOLEN THE
GOLD!

ALAS! WHAT
WILL WE DO? WE
ARE TOO OLD TO
WORK.



HE SENT FOR A BASKET-MAKER.



WHEN THE IDOL WAS BROUGHT TO COURT, RAMA SENT FOR A BRIGHT CHILD.



WHEN THE CHILD WAS COMFORTABLY SEATED INSIDE THE IDOL, RAMA SENT FOR THE NEIGHBOUR AND HIS WIFE.



TREMBLING WITH FEAR, THE COUPLE CARRIED THE IDOL TO THE TEMPLE AND BEGAN WALKING ROUND IT.



WHILE THEY WERE AT THE BACK OF THE TEMPLE AND OUT OF EARSHOT, AS HE BELIEVED, THE HUSBAND TURNED ANGRILY UPON HIS WIFE.

SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE! WE'LL HAVE TO SWEAR TO A FALSEHOOD BEFORE THE GODDESS. SHE WILL NEVER FORGIVE US FOR IT.

INSIDE THE IDOL—

THE JUDGE WILL BE GLAD TO HEAR THIS.

AS SOON AS THE IDOL WAS BROUGHT BACK TO COURT, THE CHILD CAME OUT.

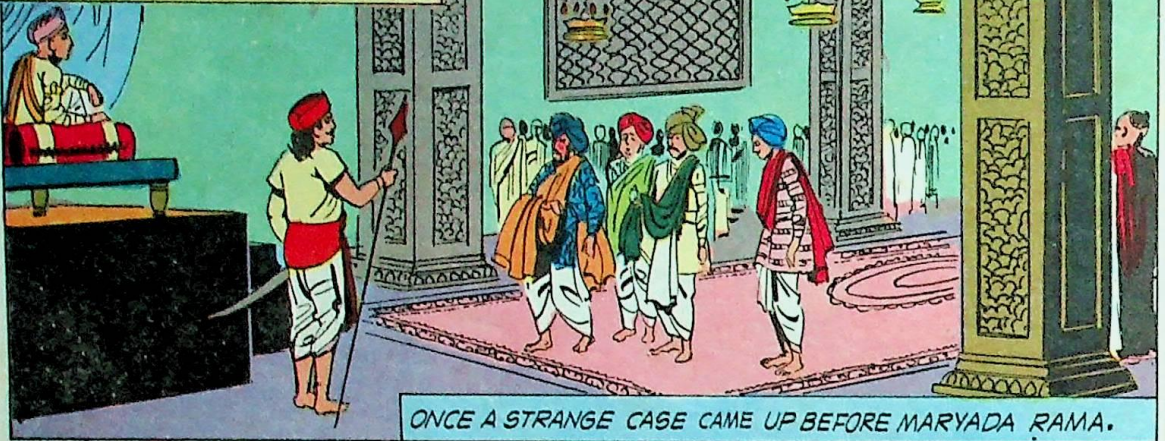
SIR, THIS MAN SAID TO HIS WIFE...

KNOWING THAT HE WAS TRAPPED, THE NEIGHBOUR FELL ON HIS KNEES AND CONFESSED.

SEE THAT THEY RETURN THE GOLD AND SEND THEM TO PRISON.

AND THE CHILD REPEATED WHAT HE HAD HEARD.

THE CAT'S PAW



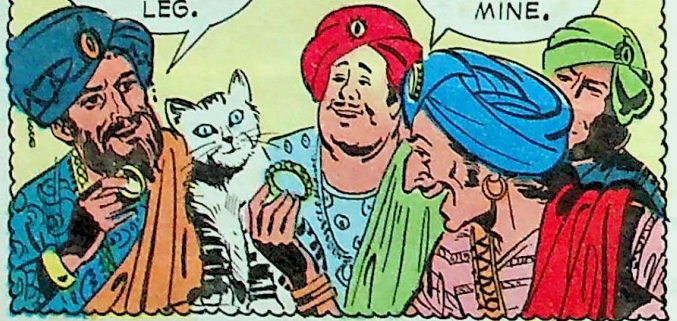
THE PLAINTIFFS WERE THREE COTTON MERCHANTS AND THE DEFENDANT, THEIR FOURTH PARTNER.

SIR, THE FOUR OF US DEAL IN COTTON BALES, DISGUSTED WITH THE RAT MENACE WE BOUGHT A CAT.

"WE BECAME SO FOND OF THE CAT THAT EACH OF US TOOK CHARGE OF ONE OF ITS LEGS AND SHOWERED ATTENTION ON IT.

HERE IS A FINE ANKLET FOR MY LEG.

IT'S NOT AS FINE AS MINE.



"ONE DAY, THE CAT HURT ONE OF ITS LEGS—THE ONE BELONGING TO THE DEFENDANT.

MIAOW!

THERE! THERE! I'LL BIND IT WITH THIS OIL-SOAKED RAG AND IT WILL SOON BE ALL RIGHT.

"THAT NIGHT, AS THE CAT LIMPED ABOUT AFTER THE RATS, IT STEPPED ON AN OIL LAMP AND THE RAG CAUGHT FIRE.



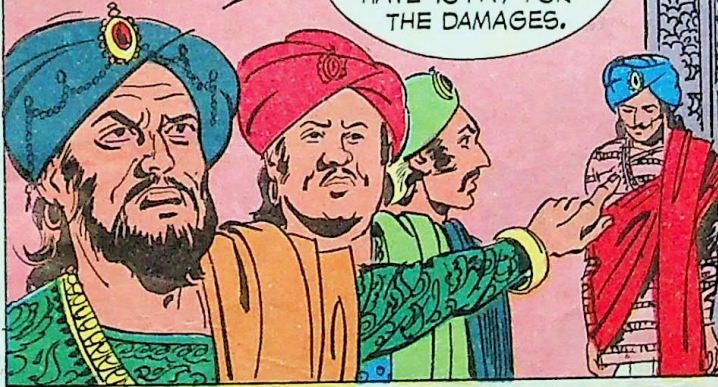
"MAD WITH PAIN, IT DASHED HITHER AND THITHER AND SET ALL THE BALES ON FIRE.



"WHEN WE WOKE UP, IT WAS TOO LATE, ALL THE GOODS WERE DESTROYED.

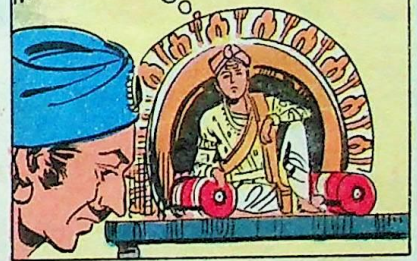


SINCE IT WAS HIS LEG THAT CAUSED THE FIRE, HE WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR THE DAMAGES.



RAMA LOOKED AT THE DEFENDANT.

THE POOR FELLOW CANNOT BE BLAMED. IT WAS AN ACCIDENT. HIS PARTNERS MUST BE TAUGHT A LESSON.



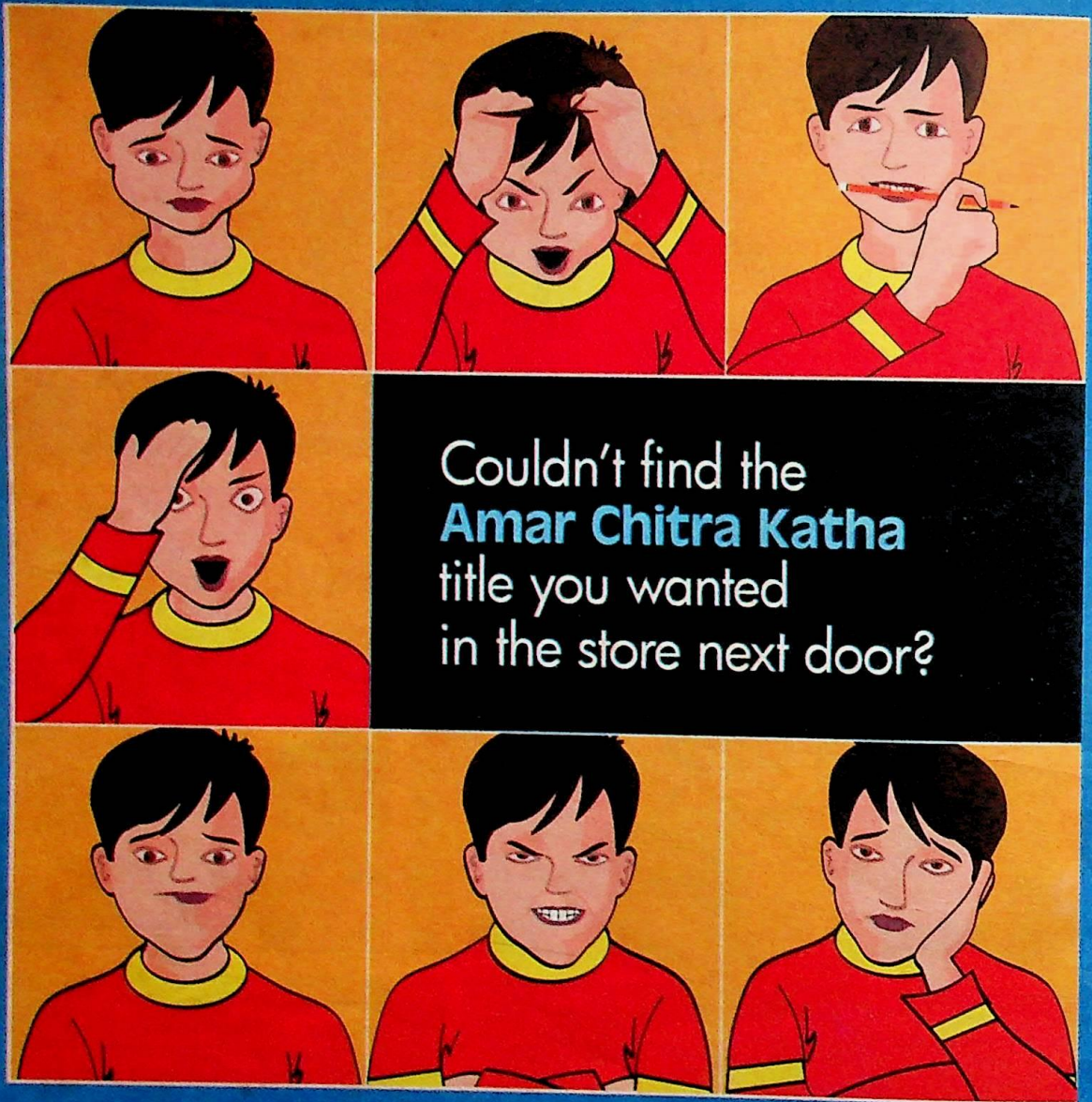
HE TURNED TO THE PLAINTIFFS.

IT IS YOU IN FACT WHO WILL HAVE TO MAKE GOOD TO THE DEFENDANT THE VALUE OF ONE FOURTH OF THE GOODS DESTROYED, FOR...



...IT WAS THE SOUND LEGS THAT HELPED THE CAT JUMP ABOUT AND SET FIRE TO THE BALES.





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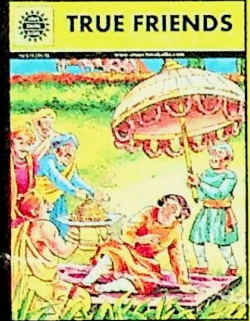
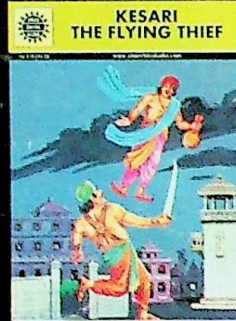
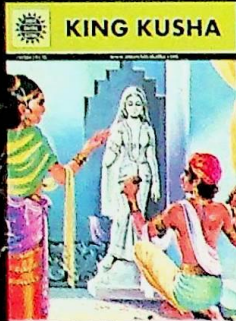
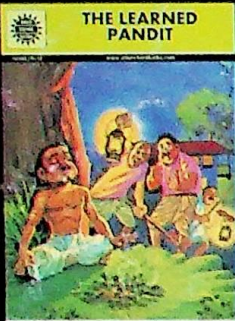
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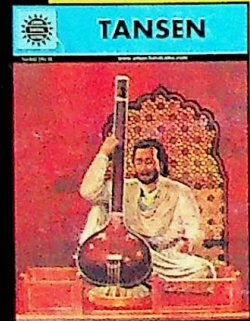
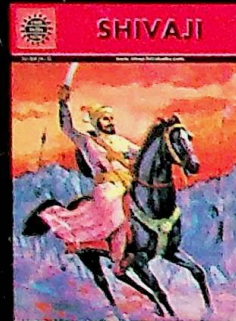
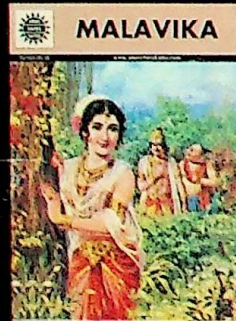
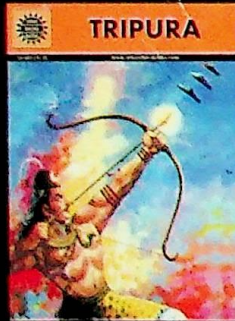
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